

# NU HOU DALA PAA

NEWS FROM THE HAWAII STATE NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION AND THE HONOLULU COIN CLUB

VOL. 3 NO. 15

NOVEMBER 13, 1985

## HCC Christmas Party

BY IRVING KAM



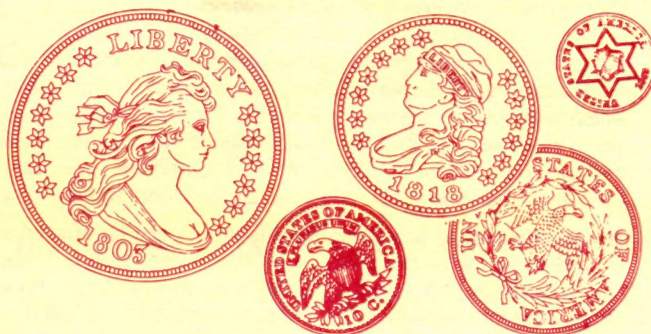
While discussing and admiring Charlie Matsuda's new "Paper Money" creations, it suddenly dawned on me that another year would soon be history. The holiday season and Superbowl are fast approaching and so is Honolulu Coin Club's Annual Christmas Party. Preparations are under way as commitments are being secured and everything is right on schedule.

With the success of past years Las Vegas type gaming format, this portion of the party will be repeated. Club members try to accumulate as much "money" as possible playing casino-like games which will ultimately be used to bid on numerous prizes at the end of this gaming period. It will offer all of us a chance to acquire some crisp uncirculated examples of said "money" as they are themselves highly collectible. These are the fourth in a series and our Club Treasurer has again done a splendid job with the designs. Charlie has incorporated the 150th Anniversary of the Sugar Industry and 100th Anniversary of Japanese Immigration on the backs while the face sides depict Hawaiian endangered species. These four denominations per set are of "horse blanket" size and sample vignettes are captioned: "Ewa Sugar Mill with cane cars, Oahu, 1900's" or "Japanese women loading sugar cane cars, Hapai Ko Style, 1912, Puunene, Maui." Each note is executed with style and the whole series has gained collector interest since the release of the "Honolulu Coin Club's Collectibles Catalog".

The party is geared for December 14th, a Saturday, at 6:00

p.m. The gracious people at Daikoku Catering have again agreed to accommodate us in one of their dining halls. The address is 1085 South Beretania St., near Pensacola St. Fun, food, and prizes have always been plentiful at these parties and this year will be no different. So sign up early and attend and I hope to see you there.

Aloha! Pau.



## HSNA 85

BY MARION KENDRICK

Once again, with great anticipation, we look forward to the 1985 HSNA Coin Show to be held at the Queen Kapiolani Hotel. This will be our 22nd Annual Show with so much interest and activity in the field of numismatics and the enlightening reports from the local dealers who have attended the shows on the mainland. This year, we are expecting over forty-five (45) dealers from all over the continental United States. In the past three and a half months, I have sold over the quota of bourse tables. In other words, the bourse tables are sold out. In fact, there is a waiting list for several mainland and local dealers who are eagerly waiting for words of cancellation. We may have to use the exhibitor's tables in order to accommodate all of the dealers.

A special recognition should go to Mr. Dave Martin of Alii Stamp and Coin Shop and the Ala Moana Stamp and Coin Shop for his perfect attendance record in the HSNA Show since 1964.

Also, we wish to welcome all the newcomers to our show and hope you'll enjoy your stay in Hawaii.

In closing, I would like to thank all the workers from the Honolulu Coin Club and the exhibitors for their kokua in making the show possible. Without their help, the show would not be a success. Mahalo.





# TALKING STORY

BY IRVING KAM

One of the most often heard phrases in Hawaiiana collecting seems to be, "Try ask Oyama". Whether it's an old plantation bango or a recently produced token, there's a good chance that Kazuma Oyama may provide some helpful information as to its issuance. I look forward to reading his articles in the Honolulu Coin Club's Newsletter and it reflects the hours he has put into research. So after years of accumulated question on pieces I have trouble attributing, it was time to do what I should have done sooner. Try ask Oyama.

Our conversation on his collecting background ping-ponged from one subject to another and I soon found we have similar collecting interests outside of numismatics or Hawaiiana, which is seemingly anything collectible. From old kitchen utensils to whatever. He started out with stamps like a lot of people and got more active in coins when he joined the Area Coin Club. He remembers that foreign was cheap and had many different varieties. At first I was surprised to learn he started in only 1970, but later discovered why as we went along. During his early travels and a stint in the Army, he always used to bring home what he calls souvenirs and dismisses them as just that, souvenirs. Little did he know that in the future these mementos would grow in number and become very collectible.

We all know of Oyama's fondness for trains and anything pertaining to the railroad. Being brought up on and working for a sugar plantation probably left a deep-rooted kinship as trains were then a major part of the industry. Numerous recollections seem to flow easily out of him while we were on this subject. Anecdotes from his childhood and the brief time he labored as a field worker should be preserved. Oyama collects just about anything from this era and includes children's train books. He said he was surprised to find so many different railroad oriented publications written for youngsters and finds most of them truly interesting. He's also been around trains as well as on them while traveling or with the courtesy of the United States Army. In Japan he rode the famous bullet train as well as the locals. The latter while in France and Italy. Railroadiana is closely related to transportation collecting so he's active in this area also. Researching Hawaii transportation tokens and reaching into his own personal first hand experience, he pieces bits of information together. I remember an excellent article he did on Rosecrans' Jitneys in an earlier issue of *Nu Hou Dala Paa* as well as others.

What started out as a few hours of talking story with Oyama turned out to be a full day of events which I won't soon forget. Like riding around his hometown of Wahiawa and pointing out various former plantation sites or soda bottling plants that still may yield an old soda bottle or two. We also made a stop at the Kemoo Farm Restaurant which has a collection of

bottles and plantation antiques on display. Military collecting was one of the topics we discussed and soon we were at Schofield Barracks heading up to their museum. They were in the process of renovating their new location but we still had a great time browsing through all of the military-Hawaiiana. Numerous medals and crests of units connected with Hawaii, old uniforms, weapons, pictures, awards, memorabilia, etc. I recall Oyama surprising one of the curators there with his knowledge. He mesmerized us with a few of his stories before we left. We also made a side trip to the historical and beautiful Kulekole Pass Lookout which can only be described as breathtaking. Later we made the rounds to the local thrift stores to see if we could find any new additions to our collections and then it was up to Oyama's house. All I am at liberty to say is that this guy got some stuff. A few years ago he mentioned a piece of Hawaiiana that I was interested in and would bring it to me if he ever found it. Now I know why he can't find it!

Oyama has been medically retired from his civil service job since 1973. Besides collecting and researching Hawaiiana, he likes to spend time in his yard. Potted plants, fruit trees, flowers, etc. He is a heavily decorated 442nd combat veteran and belongs to numerous organizations. In addition to the Honolulu Coin Club and the H.S.N.A., he holds membership in the American Numismatic Association, American Vecturist Association, International Organization of Wooden Money Collectors, Dedicated Wooden Money Collectors, Hawaiian Philatelic Society, Friends of Iolani Palace, Bishop Museum Association, Friends of Waipahu Cultural Garden Park, and the Hawaiian Railway Society to name a few.

If this article seems to jump around a bit, I apologize. It's just that I could never hold Oyama down to one topic for more than a few minutes. When he was a youngster, his mother used to call him a "mika bozu," Japanese for literally a "three day wonder". He was interested in something for about three days and then he was off in another direction. Appropriate indeed. I am very grateful to him for sharing so much Aloha and knowledge with me and I sincerely had an educational as well as a marvelous time. Maybe I shouldn't be saying this but if you have a question on a token, why not do what I do, ask Oyama!

Thanks, Kazuma, and I hope I can return the favor soon.  
Aloha! Pau.



## Franklin and the Bell

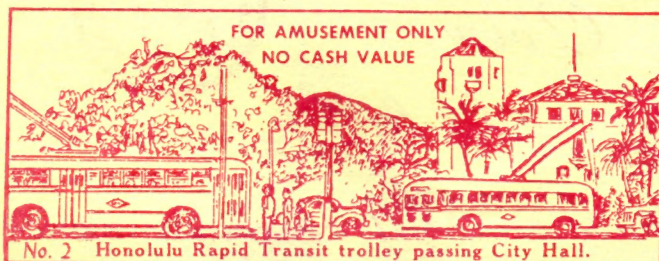
Answers to the ten trivia questions from the August 1985 issue of the *Nu Hou Dala Paa*:

1. Susan B. Anthony; 2. Pass and Stow, Philadelphia MDCCLIII (1753); 3. Biblical quotation—"Proclaim liberty throughout the land unto all the inhabitants thereof." (Leviticus XXV:10); 4. Designer John R. Sinnock; 5. 1955-1956; 6. 1787 Fugio cent; 7. Chief Justice John Marshall; 8. 35 coins; 9. Turkey; 10. Independence Hall, Philadelphia, Pa.



# Hawaii Tramways

BY GREGORY HUNT



## H.C.C. party note

By 1880 Honolulu's population had increased to about 30,000. This rapid increase caused the monarchy to look into a better transportation system. From 1883 through 1884 many persons were solicited and organized into groups to build a tramway system. But it wasn't till 1887 that Mr. Graham Gribble got the ball rolling. He formed the Hawaiian Tramways, Ltd. It ran for two miles along King Street, from Houghtailing to Thomas Square, and cost 5 cents. The tram was horse-driven with one conductor collecting fees.

In the 1890s Hawaii's population became mainland travelers. There, some of them saw new innovations in land travel. They came back here to recount adventures on elaborate electric street railways and other forms of travel. But the Hawaiian Tramways, Ltd., didn't want to make changes and was content to keep a status quo on transportation in Hawaii. A new company was formed to pick up the idea. Honolulu Rapid Transit and Land Company was formed under the direction of Mr. Lorrin Thurston in 1898. They started ambitiously to build a network of rails along King Street, Beretania Street, and Kalakaua Avenue. Their first electric car started service on August 31, 1901, a Saturday, on Hotel Street.

The H.R.T. & L. Co. was a rapid success. This, plus the fact that there was an overcrowding on the transit lines, caused the Hawaiian Tramways, Ltd., to become bankrupt and it closed in 1904. From 1901 through 1904, H.R.T. & L. Co. built over 25 miles of track and had in operation over 10 lines. They also maintained over 25 street cars in their Alapai location. This rapid rise can be traced to not only passenger carrying service, but the fact that it was being used to carry freight from Oahu Railway & Land Co. from Pearl Harbor and U.H. Quarry.

In 1920 the H.R.T. & L. Co. changed its name because they realized that they were not in the land business and so its new name was Honolulu Rapid Transit Co. or H.R.T. Shortly thereafter Hawaii began experiencing a loss of coinage due to the after effects of World War I. To answer this problem effectively, the company issued its own token in 1923 in zinc and nickel. This token was round and approximately the same size as a dime for adult fare and the size of a nickel for children's fare. On both, the center was cut out into two vertical lines. These were in full use in no time, thus, it issued another two tokens in 1924. These remained in use until 1950.

New competition entered the market place with the formation of the Pearl Harbor Driver's Association by Mr. Medeiros in the late 1920s. They ran exclusive service with the military from Pearl Harbor to town and back. In the early 1930s the jitney service appeared in the form of Rosecrans's U-Drive Ltd. by Mr. Rosecrans. They tried to corner the transit market from town to Waikiki and back. This, plus the advent of new gasoline powered cars, brought about the end of the electric cars of H.R.T. Forethought, though, kept them in control of the market till the government stepped in to ban the jitney service in Waikiki and other companies from competing with H.R.T.

In 1951 the H.R.T. issued a new token. This token was to spur on the aloha spirit. It was made of nickel, about the size between a nickel and a quarter, with a Hula Girl in the center. It was used for about three to five years and then withdrawn. This famous token, "the Hula Girl", was hard to come by for collectors till a hoard was found and plummeted from the catalog price of \$45.00 to 50¢. The company was able to run effectively till the 1970s when overhead and old equipment caused its owner, Mr. Harry Weinberg, to sell the company to the City and County of Honolulu.

It is presently in operation as the Mass Transit Lines.

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## BIG THINGS COMING FOR JUNIOR COLLECTORS!!

BY RUSS GRUNCH



One of our most serious responsibilities in the Honolulu Coin Club is to pass on our knowledge and love of numismatics to our junior members. (Numismatics includes coins, tokens, paper currency, medals, etc.). In the last two years, junior participation has grown and now we can begin to have separate activities for "Juniors Only". The intent is to make numismatics both fun and an educational experience. This article will cover how we will achieve these two goals.

A junior membership committee is now working on projects to make numismatics fun! Starting soon, we will have junior auctions and a junior table at our club meetings on the second and fourth Wednesdays of every month. This will allow juniors to browse and compete for collectible items with people of their own age and in a price range they can afford. Several local dealers and collectors have already offered to contribute numismatic items for use as prizes, auctioning and for sale on the junior table. Our local dealers and collectors are wise indeed because they know our great hobby can continue only if we pass on the thrill and love of numismatics to new generations. Their contributions will enable us to make meeting nights a big event for our junior members.

We also will devote time to educational programs. These will be fun programs and will include such things as guest speakers giving presentations on proper handling of coins and numismatic items, grading, use of reference books buying techniques, and most importantly—how to build a collection that provides a lifetime of satisfaction. As incentives to attract our young members to these programs, prizes and awards will be given.

In conclusion, junior members are going to find our meetings a lot more fun and an excellent opportunity to become better educated on numismatics. If that isn't enough, we are also going to give away many prizes and have cut-rate prices at the junior table. To make this unbeatable offer, the Board of Directors have made junior membership in the Honolulu Coin Club free. If you are a junior and want to get involved—now is the time!! If you are a parent, bring your children and let them find out how much fun numismatics can be!! Big things are coming and now is the perfect time to get involved.

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Meetings held every 2nd and 4th  
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### BIG ISLAND COIN CLUB

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of the month  
at Po Mai Kai, 929 Ululani Street,  
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### KONA COIN & STAMP CLUB

Meetings held 1st Tuesday  
of the month at  
the First Hawaiian Bank, Meeting Room,  
Kailua, Kona.



# KANYAKU (contract) IMIN (immigrant) CENTENNIAL

BY KAZUMA OYAMA



The year long observance of the centennial of the Japanese Kanyaku Imin has produced a few items for collectors of medals and Hawaiiana.

The previous issue of *Nu Hou Dala Paa* pictured the Honolulu Coin Club's wooden token that honored King Kalakaua and commemorated the 100th anniversary of the arrival of the first Japanese contract immigrants to Hawaii. The same issue depicted a Japanese centennial medal accompanied by an article that gave a brief history of their arrival and described the meaning of the design. This medal was issued in bronze and silver. In recent months a key chain commemorating the Kanyaku Imin has flooded the market. This "made in Japan" item has the appearance of solid metal but has a cardboard core with the designs embossed on thin metal.

The "official" 100th anniversary medal was produced by The Hawaiian Mint with the blessings of the Governor of Hawaii and his Centennial Committee. It contains the official logo for the centennial. It is a beautiful medal that was highly advertised in newspapers and TV. Its production is limited to the year 1985, and the medal sells for a comparatively high price. The September 4, 1985, issue of *Coin World* pictured this medal along with an excellent article by Bill Murray.

A beautiful medal related to the Kanyaku Imin that received scant publicity is the silver medal issued by the Honolulu Japanese Junior Chamber of Commerce in conjunction with their 33rd (1985) Cherry Blossom Festival. The obverse depicts a single stylized cherry blossom and the words "Honolulu Japanese JAYCEES 1985". The reverse shows a plantation laborer with a hoe on his left shoulder, hibiscus flowers on his right and cherry blossoms on the left. The words "Cherry Blossoms 100 years 1885-1985 Experience" surrounds the design.

In addition to the above items, collectors of Hawaiiana could add the special beer label from the 1 pint 5.4 oz. Suntory Beer bottle which commemorated the 100th anniversary of the Kanyaku Imin with a "limited" issue in July, and the Hawaiian Punch soft drink can with Japanese words commemorating the same occasion.

An early contribution to Hawaiiana influenced by the Japanese plantation workers was the bango—the Japanese word for numbers. The metal bango was issued to each worker for timekeeping and payroll purposes and also to serve as "charge card" at the plantation-owned store. With their meager pay, some of the workers at times charged their entire month's pay at the plantation store. There is a parable here to the American coal miner's plight as sung by Tennessee Ernie Ford—"Sixteen tons and what do you get, another day older and deeper in debt. I owe my soul to the company store".

Students of American history may find a parallel between the indentured workers of colonial America and the Japanese Kanyaku Imin in that both had written agreements to serve a given period time for indebtedness or pay.

## COIN SHOWS FOR 1986

### HSNA MINI SHOW

Susannah Wesley Community Center

May 1986

### HONOLULU COIN CLUB SHOW

August Pending

### HSNA SHOW

Nov 6-9 1986

Thurs-Fri-Sat-Sun

Queen Kapiolani Hotel

In the heart of Waikiki

Since this is our last issue of the  
Honolulu Coin Club Newsletter for this year,  
we will like to wish you all a very

Merry Christmas  
and a  
Happy New Year!

See you all in April 1986, our next issue.





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